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STATE CAPITOL COMMITTEE

December 11, 2014

CAPITOL LAKE SITUATION ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE: INFORMATION

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Committee on the situation assessment underway for Capitol Lake. Staff from the William D. Ruckelshaus Center will present their findings.

OVERVIEW

In June 2014, the Department of Enterprise Services contracted with the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to provide a situation assessment around Capitol Lake management. The Ruckelshaus Center is a joint effort of the University of Washington and Washington State University to assist communities with difficult public policy issues. Their mission is to help public, private, tribal, non-profit and other community leaders to build consensus and resolve conflicts through collaborative decision making.

Over the past several months, the Center has conducted a situation assessment to determine the most productive means of addressing the issues around the Capitol Lake basin and its future management.

The assessment included interviewing 44 people to get a broad representation of the various perspectives. It is a semi-structured, interview based process undertaken to better understand and explore issues and interests of involved parties as well as the situation dynamics. The interviewees' visions and priorities for Capitol Lake, along with their thoughts on relevant issues to be considered for management of the basin and a possible collaborative process to seek common ground were considered.

The Center is a neutral, third party, and will independently develop a report with key findings and a recommendation about the prospects for a follow-up collaborative process to address the issues. The report will be finalized the week of December 15, 2014.

NEXT STEPS

Recommendations from that report will inform Enterprise Services and the Legislature on what is needed for further funding to continue moving ahead. Enterprise Services is not seeking funds for a dredge at this point, so as not to jeopardize the collaborative process being pursued through the Ruckelshaus Center. Enterprise Services has requested \$350,000 for the 2015-2017 biennium any recommendations that come from this report and could later work with the Legislature on a 2016 supplemental request, should that be needed.
